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26 July 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Completed Histories of DDI Components

1. In accordance with your oral request of 20 July 1973, there is attached a list of the histories and historical monographs that have been completed to date by DDI components.

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2. As we agreed, I have transferred custody of the "DDI copy" of each of these histories (except those by [redacted], [redacted] to the CIA Historical Staff for retention in their centralized Headquarters collection of CIA histories that will be maintained in Room 2D27. I will continue to maintain custody of the [redacted] monographs. It is my understanding that you wish to continue to maintain personal custody of [redacted] monograph.

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3. The CIA Historical Staff also maintains a collection of completed histories, including DDI histories except those noted above, [redacted]. In addition, each DDI Office-level component maintains one copy of each history it has completed.

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4. [redacted] were completed while those components were organizationally a part of the Directorate of Intelligence. Since their organizational subordination has changed, I recommend that we relinquish all responsibility for approving access to copies of these particular histories. The Historical Staff will continue to ask our approval of requests for access to the Staff's holdings of histories of present DDI components.

5. Perhaps the most frequently heard criticism of the entire Historical Program that has come to my attention is to the effect that "all that work goes into those histories and then they're filed away in a vault where no one can read them". Admittedly, many of the histories are of specialized utility and would be of interest to only a limited readership. Admittedly also, some of the histories can be considered quite sensitive, although I believe there has been a tendency to exaggerate the "sensitivity" of most histories in the program,

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considering the security discipline of rank-and-file employees of CIA and the fact that the subject matter, after all, deals with the past. Perhaps early Clandestine Service concerns over "sensitivity" of their own histories unduly influenced policies that came to be applied to the entire program. In any case, I feel that the past managers of the program made a fetish of controlling and limiting access to completed histories, with the result that they have been, in fact, largely unused. I recommend that you suggest orally to your Executive Council that the individual DDI Offices should encourage increased selective use of component histories by personnel of the Directorate for employee orientation, refresher training, management research, and general "information, education, and morale" purposes.

*This was  
done at  
Exac  
Council on  
31 July.*

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Chairman, DDI Historical Board

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